United Nations S/2001/913

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 September 2001

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

(for the period from 28 March to 24 September 2001)

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an account of the activities carried out by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) during the past six months in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991 and 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993.

II. Main developments

2. During the period under review, UNIKOM continued to monitor the Khawr' Abd Allah and the demilitarized zone, which extends 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait along the boundary between the two countries. The situation in the zone remained generally calm, and UNIKOM carried out its monitoring operations from fixed observation posts and through patrols by land, sea and air. UNIKOM helicopter flights remained suspended on the Iraqi side of the border, as they have been since December 1998 (see S/1999/330, para. 2).

3. There were 255 violations of the demilitarized zone, of which 10 were ground violations, 8 were weapons violations, 74 were maritime violations and 163 were air violations. As in the past, most of the ground violations occurred along the border and involved Iraqi vehicles using the gravel road that crosses in and out of Kuwaiti territory.

4. The weapons violations comprised seven cases when uniformed Iraqi men carrying weapons were observed in the demilitarized zone, and one case when a passenger in a Kuwaiti police vehicle was observed holding a shotgun.

5. The 74 maritime violations involved, for the most part, Iraqi fishing boats that strayed into Kuwaiti waters while fishing in the Khawr' Abd Allah waterway.

6. Most of the 163 air violations involved jet aircraft that were heard, but were flying too high to be observed or identified. The Iraqi authorities, who monitor overflights through national means, maintained the view that UNIKOM should be

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reporting a much higher number of violations and should identify aircraft by type and nationality. Despite the Mission's explanation that it cannot rely on inference or supposition in such a matter, and that there are no technical or intelligence means for UNIKOM definitively to identify the overflights, Iraq continued to complain that the reporting of air violations by UNIKOM was inadequate. The Government of Iraq has also addressed complaints to me to the effect that those actions enforcing the "no-flight zones" and other actions by aircraft of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland constitute violations of the demilitarized zone that must cease. In this regard, it should be noted that UNIKOM has been recording as violations all flights observed or heard over the demilitarized zone. At the same time, the United States and the United Kingdom have stated that they continue to enforce and patrol a no-flight zone in southern Iraq.

7. The 19 complaints that UNIKOM received during the reporting period were all lodged by Iraq. Three were about weapons violations, one pertained to new observation towers erected by Kuwait at three of its police posts, 11 dealt with air violations and 4 concerned the illegal taking of photographs in Iraq by UNIKOM personnel. The four UNIKOM personnel who allegedly took photographs were withdrawn from Iraq and, following an internal UNIKOM investigation, disciplinary measures were taken against those who were found to have violated Iraqi laws and UNIKOM standard operating procedures.

8. Of the 22 incidents reported by UNIKOM over the past six months, several involved unexploded mines and other ordnance, which still pose a danger in the demilitarized zone, especially on the Iraqi side. Five Iraqi civilians injured in separate incidents of mine or cluster bomb explosions, including four children between 6 and 12 years old and one 18-year-old, were brought to UNIKOM patrol and observation bases in the southern sector. One boy died before he could be evacuated. The other casualties were evacuated by UNIKOM helicopter for emergency medical treatment. Two of the children who were operated on by the UNIKOM German medical unit were later reported to be in stable condition. The fourth child was released after his condition stabilized, but he reportedly died a few days later. The 18-year-old victim, who had been transferred to Umm Qasr hospital in Iraq, also reportedly died as a result of his injuries.

9. One incident concerned the refusal of Kuwaiti police to allow a UNIKOM patrol to cross at a gate in a fenced area, despite repeated requests to open the gate. This constituted a serious restriction of the Mission's freedom of movement.

10. Other incidents involved children throwing stones at UNIKOM armoured personnel carriers on patrol in populated areas on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone, causing in a few instances minor damage to the carriers. In each case, the Senior Iraqi Liaison Officer was informed and asked to investigate. His intervention generally caused the incidents to subside. However, after some time new incidents invariably occur, causing UNIKOM to seek help again from the Senior Iraqi Liaison Officer.

11. UNIKOM continued to make weekly visits to Umm Qasr harbour without obstruction. At the port, UNIKOM military observers were able to freely observe commodity shipments proceeding normally under the "oil-for-food" programme.

12. UNIKOM continued to maintain close and regular liaison with the authorities of both Iraq and Kuwait at various levels, including visits by the Force Commander

to Baghdad and Kuwait City and through the UNIKOM liaison offices in the two capitals. Both the Kuwaiti and Iraqi Governments continued to cooperate with the Mission in the conduct of its operations.

13. During the period covered by this report, UNIKOM received visits from high-ranking officials from 19 Member States. The visitors, mainly from troop-contributing countries, came to meet military observers from their respective countries and to familiarize themselves with the operations of UNIKOM.

III. Organizational matters

14. As at 20 September 2001, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,319, as follows:

(a) A total of 192 military observers, from Argentina (4), Austria (2), Bangladesh (6), China (11), Denmark (5), Fiji (7), Finland (6), France (11), Ghana (6), Greece (3), Hungary (5), India (6), Indonesia (6), Ireland (7), Italy (6), Kenya (3), Malaysia (6), Nigeria (5), Pakistan (7), Poland (6), Romania (5), the Russian Federation (11), Senegal (5), Singapore (5), Sweden (5), Thailand (5), Turkey (6), the United Kingdom (11), the United States of America (11), Uruguay (6) and Venezuela (4);

(b) An infantry battalion of 775 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineering unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 30 from Argentina;

(e) A helicopter unit of 35 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 14 from Germany;

(g) A total of 223 civilian staff, of whom 56 were recruited internationally and 167 locally.

Major General John A. Vize (Ireland) continued as Force Commander.

IV. Financial aspects

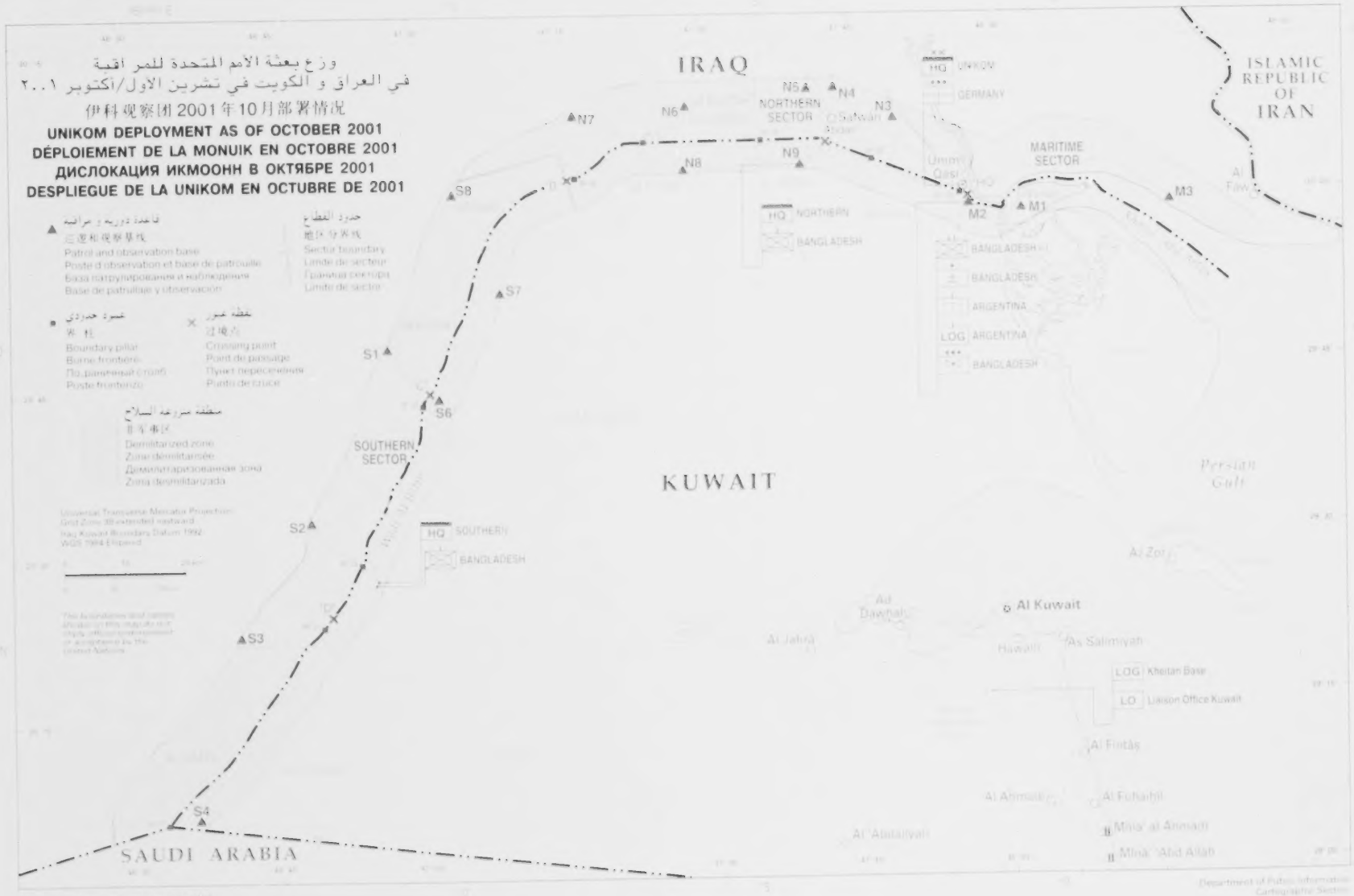
15. The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/261 of 14 June 2001, appropriated the amount of $52,815,237 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, subject to the review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to $33.7 million, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait.

16. As at 31 August 2001, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM for the period from inception to 31 October 2001 amounted to $17.8 million. Unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $3,321.1 million.

V. Observations

17. During the period under review, the situation along the border between Iraq and Kuwait remained generally quiet. UNIKOM continued to carry out its tasks smoothly, thereby contributing to the maintenance of calm and stability in the border area. In undertaking these tasks, it continued to receive the cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

18. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Vize and to the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. Their discipline and bearing have been of high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


وزع بعثة الامم المتحدة للمراقبة
في العراق و الكويت في تشرين الاول/اكتوبر ٢٠٠١
伊科观察团2001年10月部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 2001
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK EN OCTOBRE 2001
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ИКМООНН В ОКТЯБРЕ 2001
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN OCTUBRE DE 2001
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
MARITIME SECTOR
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5
N6
N7
N8
N9
S1
S2
S3
S4
S5
S6
S7
S8
M1
M2
M3
HQ UNIKOM
GERMANY
HQ NORTHERN
BANGLADESH
ARGENTINA
LOG ARGENTINA
HQ SOUTHERN
Al Kuwait
LOG Khaitan Base
LO Liaison Office Kuwait
Persian Gulf
Patrol and observation base
Sector boundary
Boundary pillar
Crossing point
Demilitarized zone
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
Grid Zone 38 extended eastward
Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Datum 1992
WGS 1984 Ellipsoid
Map No. 3837 Rev. 21 UNITED NATIONS
October 2001
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